

Hartford Elementary



April 2012 - Volume 10: Issue 8

Pictures of Math & Science Night



April Events:

- Tuesday, April 3 - Bookmobile
- Tuesday, April 3 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm @ HS Library
- Friday, April 6 - No School
- Monday, April 9 - No School
- Monday, April 9 - School Board Meeting @ 5:30
- Thursday, April 12 - Spring Concert
- Wednesday, April 18 - Early Dismissal
- Tuesday, April 24 - Bookmobile
- Tuesday, April 24 - Visit from the Real D.W. Assembly
- Friday, April 27th - Trojan Buck Store
- Friday, April 27th - Morning with Moms
- Friday, April 27th - Declam Contest



The March Birthday Bash

The March Birthday Bash was held on Wednesday, March 7th. Mrs. Tyler read "Happy Birthday to You" by Dr. Seuss, and each birthday child received a pencil, a card, a Trojan Buck, and a fruit snack. Happy birthday to all the March birthdays!



Kindergarten March Birthdays

Back Row: Drew (3-24), Donavon (3-7), Auston (3-30), and Alexa (3-10)
Front Row: Ryenn (3-24), Clara (3-15), and Landen (3-2)



First Grade March Birthdays

Back Row: Elizabeth (3-28), Kaylee (3-27), Ella (3-16), Alison (3-21), and Anna (3-7)
Front Row: Dylan (3-25), Shane (3-6), Nicholas (3-19), and Aiden (3-31)



Second Grade March Birthdays

Gage (3-7), Clayton (3-16), and Tristan (3-18)

TYLER TUESDAY

APRIL 10TH

11:00 AM

FOR APRIL
BIRTHDAYS!

CALL PAM @ 528-3215 TO
REGISTER

Field Trips

Although your teacher will be giving specifics, I wanted to share the scheduled field trips for this school year.

- Thursday, May 3 - 2nd grade field trip to Army National Guard, Butterfly House, Outdoor Campus with Burger King @ Sertoma Park
- Tuesday, May 8th - Track & Field Afternoon
- Friday, April 11th - 1st Grade Field Trip - Children's Museum in Brookings
- Monday, May 14th - JK Field Trip - Butterfly House
- Tuesday, May 15th - Kindergarten Field Trip - Butterfly House - AM Zoo PM
- Wednesday, May 16th - All classes visit City Hall/New Fire Station

Read Across America

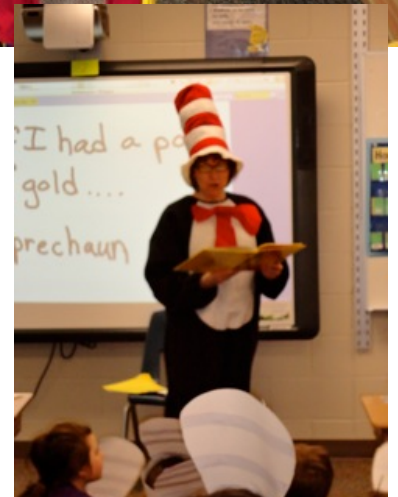
West Central Hartford Elementary celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss by doing many reading activities on Friday, March 2nd. Sixth grade students came and read to the classes as well as many guest speakers. Pictured are some of the days events.



West Central PTA Meeting

Tuesday, April 3
7:00 pm

WC High School
Library



Mrs. Spielmann is the West Central Teacher of the Year!

What words describe the WC Teacher of the Year? Dedicated, loves students, sees the best in her students and makes school interesting for kids are a few of the words that describe Carolyn Spielmann, the West Central Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012. Carolyn believes that each child is a lifelong learner and she guides them through the learning process. According to Carolyn, "I believe that children should be taught first to believe in themselves. Being a teacher is who I am. It goes beyond the classroom door and beyond a single class. Being a teacher is looking into the eyes of each child that walks through my door and wondering what they have inside. It's all about connections. I need to connect with that child, their family and the experiences that they bring and then help them make connections to a curriculum that I need to make relevant to their world and at their individual levels."



Congratulations to Carolyn, a second grade teacher at West Central Hartford Elementary.

Nominated for the honor of the 2011-2012 West Central Teacher of the Year were Amber Eberhard (4th Grade Humboldt Elementary), Glenda Knuth (1st Grade Hartford Elementary), Carolyn Spielmann (2nd Grade Hartford Elementary), and Ellen Nester (3rd Grade Humboldt Elementary).





Nurse's Notes

by Rachel Sehr, School Nurse

Stomachaches are one of the most common complaints kids come to my office with. Although there are many different things that may be causing them, it seems a frequent source of this problem is constipation. Many of the kids look at me like I'm a crazy lady when I ask about their last bowel movement but there is a reason I'm inquiring, and while it might not be the most pleasant topic of conversation, it is something very important to overall health.

Constipation occurs when stools become hard and are difficult to pass. For those of you who have been taught that a healthy child has a bowel movement every day, this is not necessarily true. The frequency of bowel movements is not as important as whether the child can pass stools easily. Your child is not constipated if his or her stools are soft and pass easily, even if it has been a few days since the last bowel movement.

However, if you think this may be causing stomach problems for your child but you don't feel like asking outright, try instead, to look for these signs and symptoms of constipation: no bowel movements for several days; bowel movements that are hard, dry and difficult to pass; pain while having a bowel movement; abdominal pain; nausea; traces of liquid or clay-like stool in the child's underwear — a sign that stool is backed up in the rectum; soiled underwear; blood on the surface of hard stool; poor appetite; cranky behavior.

Often, simple changes in diet and routine help relieve constipation in children. A diet rich in fiber will help your child's body form soft, bulky stool. Offer your child high-fiber foods, such as beans, whole grains, fruits and vegetables. But start slowly, adding just several grams of fiber a day over several weeks to reduce the amount of gas and bloating that can occur in someone who's not used to consuming high-fiber foods. Water and other fluids will help soften your child's stool. Limit foods that have little or no fiber, such as meat, processed foods, and cheese. For some children, excess milk contributes to constipation. Encourage your child to sit on the toilet for five to 10 minutes within 30 minutes of each meal. Follow the routine every day, even during holidays and vacations. Lastly, be supportive. Reward your child's efforts, not results.

As I mentioned, this subject is not likely a first choice for dinner conversation, but there are many children in our school system battling this problem. It is just one more thing to add to the already long list of what parents need to be aware of.

Rachel Sehr, RN

Remember, plenty of rest, exercise, proper nutrition, and good hygiene go a long way in the prevention of most common illnesses!

Walking School Bus

Begins again...

Tuesday, April 3rd!

Let's Get Walking!

Reflections -

by Mrs. Tyler



I was able to attend the National Principal's Conference mid-March for a few days. It was an excellent conference with many top-notch speakers and sessions to take. While I enjoy attending and learning from educators who research and write books, I also learn from the principals that I sit next to at the conference. I met a gentleman in one of the sessions from North Pole, Alaska. He assured me that Anchorage is simply a big city and not really Alaska. North Pole and many of the small villages are actually Alaska according to him. Interesting thought.

As I would share with others that I was from South Dakota, reactions would vary. "Oh, Mt. Rushmore", "I've never been there," "Rob Munson's (our National Elementary Principals' President) home state," or "Oh, I've heard about what the state government is trying to do to your teachers." At even a national level, our state is known for our House Bill 1234. If you're not familiar with this now law, it worries me on many levels...because of the local control that's being removed from our SD districts to be replaced by a national agenda. Is the education your child's receiving so awful that we need sweeping reforms in South Dakota? I disagree. While we won't make 100% proficient by 2014, we have come a long way in educating the whole child. As you know, there are so many factors that matter in the life of a child, and yes, the teacher is one of those factors...but enough of a factor to base bonus pay? And as one speaker at the conference lamented, "Why are we judging our success as an educator by ONE test? We need to be looking out 10 years, or 20 years in order to see the success we made in that child's life."

And while I know you are busy parents, trying to juggle soccer, baseball, work, home, etc., I'd like you to take a few minutes to view a couple of the speakers from this conference. They are well versed in what is happening at a national level and things that will be effecting the lives of your child here in SD.

One is Charlotte Danielson. I don't have a video of her, but she is the creator of the teacher evaluation tool we will now be using as a state. It is a good tool, if used correctly. She said, "The tool was never intended to be used as a basis for merit pay for teachers." However, that is what our state is telling us we must do.

Another speaker I heard was Diane Ravitch. She is an exceptional lady who has been an educator for many years. This video was not taken at the conference I attended, but the message is the same.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=955N9VRchXw>

While Daniel Pink was not at this conference, his work was alluded to several times. It's all about what motivates us.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc>

Common Core State Standards is another term you will be hearing about by your child's teacher beginning next year. SD is one of 40+ states who have adopted these standards that will be the same in all of those states. While there are good things about having common standards, I also have questions about the developmental appropriateness for our kids. You can find these new standards at <http://doe.sd.gov/octe/commoncoreStandards.asp>

They are on the right hand side under "documents." I'm sure we'll be developing some form of report card to match what we are asking your children to learn. Please stay tuned!

Thanks for taking the time to read through all of this, and I'm always willing to listen to thoughts you might have in these areas that affect the educational life of your child.

Love & Logic When Kids Interrupt

***Kids should not be allowed to
interrupt their parents.***

When children are allowed to control whether or not their parents converse, they're at great risk for developing the notion that they have more importance and power in the family than their parents. While we believe that children should be given plenty of love and attention, we know that kids who believe that the world revolves around them...well...grow up to be adults who believe that the world revolves around them.

Part of the solution involves being very careful to avoid interrupting them when it's their turn to speak. In my book, [Parenting Kids To Become the People Employers Really Want and America Desperately Needs!](#) I discuss the immense power of modeling. Kids who learn these skills via example enjoy far happier lives as adults.

Another piece of the puzzle involves setting and enforcing clear limits. Some parents experiment by calmly yet firmly saying, "I will listen to you when I am done talking with Dad."

When children continue to interrupt anyway, there must be a consequence delivered with loving empathy. Many possibilities exist. Perhaps the simplest involves doing your best to finish the conversation...then calmly saying, "This is so sad. You interrupted us when we were trying to talk. Now we don't have the energy to do the things you wanted us to do today."

One couple commented on their unique strategy:

Our kids had gotten so bad about interrupting us that we decided to hire a baby sitter...at their expense. We said to them, "This is such a bummer. You guys haven't been letting us talk. Now we need to go out and get all of our talking done. You'll be staying with Mrs. B. She's going to ask you how you plan to pay her for her time." After we did this one time, our kids were far more careful when we said, "We'll listen when we are done talking."

Thanks for reading!
Dr. Charles Fay

Buffy Edberg to Retire



Anyone who enters our building at Hartford Elementary has probably run across Buffy Edberg. Buffy has been head custodian at our school for many years. She has worked for the West Central School District for 27 years. She started in the kitchen and moved to custodian. While working at our elementary, she not only cleans, but helps out in the lunchroom, buttering bread, opening milks, and smiling at the things the kids say.

Buffy won't completely quit working, however. She plans to continue her house cleaning business and stay active with her children and grandchildren. Buffy and her husband, Eric, live in Hartford.

More information on when we will be honoring our retirees will be coming in the next newsletter.

Art Awards

From the Hartford Elementary Art Room

Congratulations! Last school year (Spring 2011), students worked with a group of students to create an excellent stop motion animation movie through imovie on our MAC laptops. I was so impressed with their work, that I submitted the under 2 minute animation movie to the SD TIE Conference's 2012 Media Fair Contest. The 2012 SD Media Fair judging is complete, and a Hartford Elementary team entry was selected for an Honorable Mention award;

K-2 Animation (Single) Honorable Mention - "The Princess" - McKenna Sichmeller, Lily Sidel, and Logan Maras

The judging process was facilitated at Dakota State University by Dr. Mark Hawkes and a team of undergraduate students. The reviewers comments are included below.

Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony will take place at this years TIE Conference in Sioux Falls on Monday, April 16th. Awards will be presented at 4:00pm, in the exhibit hall at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, during the Festival of Technology.

In addition, all 2012 entries will be on display at the TIE booth throughout the duration of the TIE Conference. Again, congratulations to these students!

Reviewer Comments for "The Princess"

Nice Job. Layout and images were great. Moving parts could've been better
The sound matched the movement and quality of the animation was good! Great Job
Loved the sound & layout of the video
Great job! This was very cute!
Good Job! The movement of your objects throughout your animation looked very good.

Walking Bus Routes

by Mrs. Tyler

I will begin the walking bus routes the week of **April 2nd**. I will try to follow the following schedule, but there are time that I have meetings that I can't avoid. If I am not at the stop and the in-town bus comes, please have your kids ride the bus.

Tuesdays - Imagination Station Route - 7:50 pick up

Wednesdays - Emma Circle/South of School Route 7:45 pick up

Fridays - Christ Lutheran Route - 7:40 pick up



Help Us Save!

Check out the following ways to help us out!



Box Tops for Education

Just clip, put in a baggie and return to school!
There is also a drop box at Sunshine.



Save Five for Schools

Just wash these milk and juice lids and send to school in a baggie (or Sunshine). Watch for store specials! We need the WHOLE lid!



Labels for Education

This is not just Campbell's Soup Labels anymore! There are many products that qualify. Check it out at labelsforeducation.com. You can send labels to school with your child or drop in box @ Sunshine.

Cell Phones/Ink Cartridges

You can drop off old cell phones or ink cartridges and we can recycle and get money back. There is a box inside our front door.

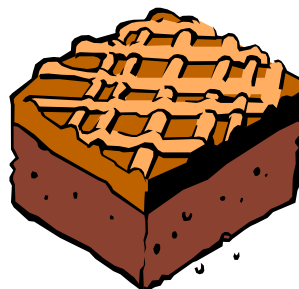
Lunch Schedules

If you want to come and eat with your child, here are the lunch schedules:

- 1A 11:10 - 11:40 - Mrs. Knuth
- 1B 11:15 - 11:45 - Mrs. Underberg
- 1C 11:20 - 11:50 - Mrs. O'Hara
- 1D 11:25 - 11:55 - Mrs. Graff
- 1E 11:30 - 12:00 - Ms. Henry
- KA 11:40 - 12:10 - Mrs. Wolles
- KB 11:45 - 12:15 - Mrs. Even
- KC 11:50 - 12:20 - Mrs. Cole
- KD 11:55 - 12:25 - Mrs. Weber
- 2A 12:05 - 12:35 - Mrs. Mriden
- 2B 12:10 - 12:40 - Mrs. Spielmann
- 2C 12:15 - 12:45 - Mr. Jacobs

CGI Corner

Brownie Problem



I invited 8 people to a party (including me), and I had 12 brownies. How much did each person get if everyone got a fair share? Later my mother got home with 9 more brownies. We can always eat more brownies, so we shared these out equally too. This time how much brownie did each person get? How much brownie did each person eat altogether?